

Legislative Bulletin.....March 2, 2010

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H.Res. 1097 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week (*Lipinski, D-IL*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 1097 resolves that Congress recognizes:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week to increase understanding of and interest in engineering careers and to promote technological literacy and engineering education; and
- “Continues to work with the engineering community to ensure that the creativity and contributions made by engineers can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “The sponsors of National Engineers Week are working together to transform the engineering workforce through greater inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities;
- “An increasing number of the approximately 2,000,000 engineers in the United States are nearing retirement;
- “National Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to honor the contributions that the first President, who was both a military engineer and a land surveyor, made to engineering, and
- “February 14, 2010, to February 20, 2010, has been designated as National Engineers Week by the National Engineers Week Foundation and its coalition members.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1097 was introduced on February 23, 2010, and referred to the House Science and Technology Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 3820 - Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009 (*Wu, D-OR*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3820 reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) with the purpose of developing methods to lessen the impact of earthquakes and windstorms on society.

H.R. 3820 reauthorizes a total of \$872 million over five years for the programs at the following agencies; [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), [United States Geological](#)

[Survey](#) (including the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System), the [National Science Foundation](#), the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#), and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

Title I of the bill reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program to research and develop effective methods, tools, and technologies to reduce the risk posed by earthquakes to existing structures. It will also seek to increase understanding of earthquakes on structures through research that involves engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Program will also facilitate the adoption of earthquake risk reduction measures through grants, developing standards and guidelines in building codes and by collecting and distributing relevant information. This program will also include a post-earthquake investigation program to investigate major earthquakes and see what can be learned. The Annual Report for the [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#) can be found [here](#).

Title II of the bill reauthorizes the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act to reduce the risks by windstorms to built structures. This program will seek to build on current knowledge of windstorms and their impacts through research engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences. Further, the program will facilitate the adoption of reduction measures through grants, developing hazard maps, standards and guidelines, and collecting and distributing relevant information. The most recent Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan, provided by the National Science and Technology Council, can be found [here](#).

H.R. 3820 also establishes an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction, that will be chaired by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and consists of the directors of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United State Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget. This committee will meet at minimum of two times a year to oversee the planning and coordination of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. After one year, the Committee shall submit a Congressional Report, and will continue to do so every two years.

The National Construction Safety Team Act authorizes the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish National Construction Safety Teams for deployment (within 72 hours) after events causing the failure of a building or buildings that has resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed significant potential for substantial loss of life.

Additional Information:

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) is a multiagency program initially authorized by Congress in 1977 and subsequently reauthorized on 2- to 5-year intervals. The four federal agencies with funding authorizations and legislatively mandated responsibilities for NEHRP activities are the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The NEHRP is designed to research and develop effective methods, tools, and technologies to reduce the risk posed by earthquakes to existing structures. It also seeks to improve the understanding of earthquakes on structures through research involving engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Program facilitates the adoption of earthquake risk reduction measures through grants, developing standards and guidelines in building codes, and by collecting and distributing relevant information. This program will also include a post-earthquake investigation program to investigate major earthquakes and see what can be learned. The Annual Report for the [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#) can be found [here](#).

The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act was signed into law on October 25, 2004 and seeks to reduce the loss of life and property from windstorms. This program seeks to build on current knowledge of windstorms and their impacts by research in engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences. Further, the program facilitates the adoption of risk reduction measures through grants, developing hazard maps, creating standards and guidelines, and collecting and distributing relevant information. The most recent Windstorm Impact Reduction Implementation Plan, provided by the National Science and Technology Council, can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 3820 was introduced on October 15, 2009 and was referred to the House Science and Technology Committee, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. The House Science and Technology Committee held a markup on October 21, 2009 and passed by a voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 3820 authorizes a total of \$872 million over the 2010-2014 period. “Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the provisions of title I would cost \$630 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$104 million after 2014. Implementing the provisions of title II would cost \$116 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$21 million after 2014.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. H.R. 3820 establishes a new Interagency Coordinating Committee on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: According to House Report 111- 424, H.R. 3820 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 111 – 424 cites constitutional authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

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H.Res. 747 - Congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009 (*Hall, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 747 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009;
- “Supports West Point's mission ‘to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army’; and
- “Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the Superintendent of West Point.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “Forbes magazine has named the United States Military Academy at West Point as America's Best College for 2009;
- “General George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko to design West Point's fortifications in 1778;
- “2 Presidents of the United States, 74 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, 88 Rhodes Scholars, 33 Marshall Scholars, and 28 Truman Scholars have graduated from West Point; and
- “West Point offers a well-rounded, highly regarded education to the next generation of the Nation's leaders.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 747 was introduced on September 15, 2009, and referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 699 - Expressing the appreciation of Congress for the service and sacrifice of the members of the 139th Airlift Wing, Air National Guard (Graves, R-MO)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 699 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “Recognizes the exemplary service and sacrifice of the members of the 139th Airlift Wing and their families; and
- “Commends the members of the 139th AW and their families (and all of the other members of the Armed Forces who have served, or who are currently serving, in support of United States military contingency operations) for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “The 139th Airlift Wing (AW), Air National Guard has its roots in the formation of the 180th Bombardment Squadron (Light), which was one of the first federally recognized Air National Guard units in the United States;
- “In 1976 the unit was redesignated as the 139th Tactical Airlift Group (TAG);
- “In 1992 the unit was redesignated the 139th Airlift Group (AG);
- “In 1995 the unit officially became known as the 139th Airlift Wing; and
- “The 139th AW has a tremendous positive economic impact in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas, accounting for nearly 2,500 civilian and military jobs.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 699 was introduced on July 30, 2009, and referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 812 - Recognizing the significant contributions of the Military Working Dog (MWD) Program to the United States Armed Forces (Lance, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 812 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the significant contributions of the Military Working Dog (MWD) Program to the United States Armed Forces;
- “Honors retired Air Force MWD Ben C020 for his lifetime of service; and
- “Supports the adoption and care of these quality animals after their service is over.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Military Working Dog (MWD) Program, or K-9 Corps, was developed in 1942, shortly after the United States entered World War II;
- “All four branches of the United States Armed Forces as well as other government agencies, including the Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency, and Transportation Security Authority, use MWDs in service to the country;
- “Today approximately 2,000 MWDs serve at nearly 170 United States military bases worldwide, including bases in 40 States and 3 United States territories;
- “retired MWD Ben C020 is recognized for his nearly 11 years of service in the Air Force; and
- “Organizations such as K9 Soldiers, Inc. are recognized for their work in coordination with the Department of Defense to help bring MWDs stationed overseas home to the United States for adoption when their active duty days are over and provide support to active K9 military teams worldwide.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 812 was introduced on October 7, 2009, and referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1072 - Recognizing Louisiana State University for 150 years of service and excellence in higher education (Cassidy, R-LA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1072 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Louisiana State University for over 150 years of service and excellence in higher education, and
- “Congratulates Louisiana State University on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “classes began at Louisiana State University, formerly named Seminary of Learning of the State of Louisiana, on January 2, 1860;
- “Louisiana State University offers degrees in 72 baccalaureate programs, 78 master's programs, and 53 doctoral programs and has awarded more than 100,000 degrees since the institution's inception;
- “Louisiana State University has answered the call to service whether it be officers for military service or operating the Nation's largest field hospital in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

- “Louisiana State University has provided a quality education, basic and applicable research, service to its State and Nation, and brought distinction upon the State of Louisiana.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1072 was introduced on February 4, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 1117 - Commending and congratulating the California State University system on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (Lofgren, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1117 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends and congratulates the California State University system on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “The California State University system will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during 2010 and 2011;
- “Today the CSU is the Nation's largest and most diverse university system, with 23 campuses and 7 off-campus centers, almost 433,000 students, and 44,000 faculty and staff;

- “The CSU returns \$4.41 for every \$1 the State invests, the CSU sustains more than 200,000 jobs in the State, and CSU-related expenditures create \$13,600,000,000 in economic activity; and
- “The California State University is developing not only college graduates, but responsible citizens and leaders for California and the Nation.”

Additional Information: According to Recovery.gov, California State University Systems received \$716,500,000 in grants made possible by the “stimulus.” This has been attributed to the creation of 38,924 jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the December 2009 unemployment rate for California was 12.4%. This reflects a steady increase from 10.1% in January 2009, prior to the “stimulus.”

The Sacramento Bee reports that “up to one-fourth of the 110,000 jobs reported as saved by federal stimulus money in California probably never were in danger.”

The California State University system reported that funds from the stimulus saved 26,000 jobs. National Review reports that a spokesman admitted “This is not really a real number of people. It’s like a budget number.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1117 was introduced on February 25, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

**H.Res. 1111 - Designating March 2, 2010, as "Read Across America Day
(Markey, D-CO)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1111 resolves that the House of Representatives that:

- “Honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;
- “Honors the 13th anniversary of Read Across America Day;
- “Encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the House of Representatives to building a Nation of readers; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “Reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;
- “The people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;
- “Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention that has been proven effective through scientifically valid research and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and
- “More than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2 to celebrate reading and the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1111 was introduced on February 25, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

**H.Res. 1112 - Congratulating the Pennsylvania State University
IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON) on its continued success in
support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's
Hospital (Thompson, R-PA)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1112 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON) on its continued success in support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital; and
- “Commends the Pennsylvania State University students, volunteers and supporting organizations for their hard work putting together another recordbreaking THON.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, known as THON, is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, with 700 dancers, more than 300 supporting organizations, and more than 15,000 volunteers involved in the annual event;
- “Student volunteers at the Pennsylvania State University annually collect money and dance for 46 hours straight at the Bryce Jordan Center for THON, bringing energy and excitement to campus for a mission to conquer cancer, and bringing awareness to countless thousands more;
- “In 2010, THON set a new fundraising record of over \$7.83 million, even after the previous record of \$7.5 million was set in 2009; and
- “THON has inspired similar events and organizations across the Nation, ranging from high schools to colleges and beyond, and continues to encourage students across the country to volunteer and stay involved in great charitable causes in their community.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1112 was introduced on February 25, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 362 - Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of the National School Lunch Program (Watson, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 362 resolves that the House of Representatives that:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of the National School Lunch Program; and
- “Recognizes that America's pupils deserve access to high-quality, safe, nutritious meals available in the school setting.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “The National School Lunch Program is declared to be the policy of the United States Congress, as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food, by assisting the States, through grants-in-aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment, maintenance, operation, and expansion of nonprofit school lunch programs;
- “Losses in school meal programs must be offset by other revenue sources that could otherwise support classroom instruction;
- “Whereas based on an estimated average cost to prepare a school lunch (including labor, food, and other inputs) of about \$2.92, and revenue of between \$2.52 to \$2.77 to offset that cost (from Federal reimbursements, commodity entitlement, and the average price paid for a school lunch) school nutrition programs are experiencing a potential loss of at least \$4.5 million per school day based on 30 million school lunches provided;
- “Many families that qualify for reduced-price meals, prescribed by Federal law using the Federal poverty level, find it difficult to pay the reduced fee, and the fee for a paid meal is an insurmountable barrier to participating for an increasing number of families;

- “A single-parent household with two children in San Mateo County, California, needs \$67,867 to be self-sufficient, while a similar family in Hardeman County, Tennessee, is self-sufficient with only \$21,657.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 362 was introduced on April 23, 2009, and referred to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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